

Library



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
UPTON-UPON-SEVERN

REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year ended

31st DECEMBER, 1952

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UPTON-UPON-SEVERN

Report for the Year 1952

To :—

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1952.

Since my last report great progress has been made with the "Southern Water Scheme" and a number of parishes are receiving water for the first time. The advantages that a pure water supply bring can be offset by lack of proper drainage to houses and farms in villages. Complaints of the inadequacy of drainage in villages have been received particularly from Ripple, Naunton, Madresfield and Bastonford. In the course of our inspections we have been able to demonstrate a number of old drains which have developed from ditches and even from Roman works to form a skeleton sewage system invested in the local Authority. Although their growth probably extended over centuries in places and although they may have been considerably neglected in the past fifty years, they are often capable of integration into a proper sewage disposal system for the village. Capital commitments are now at a high level and it is necessary to avoid further major works excepting where they will produce a true return. To embark on a large scheme which is desirable but not essential might jeopardise the installation of a future essential scheme. Proper sewage systems are, however, essentials, and will have to be considered in the light of these remarks.

There are no bye-laws in operation for the control of houses let in lodgings. The Ministry of Health is not prepared to sanction the adoption of the old set of bye-laws pending the

publication of the new model bye-laws. There are a number of houses in the district let off in rooms to families, which are ill-kept. There is gross overcrowding in these places and the normal amenities of life are absent. Until new bye-laws can be adopted there is little progress possible in improving the lot of people living in these unsatisfactory conditions, people who largely make up the problem families.

I am happy to report a great improvement in the manner in which meat is now delivered to the butchers' shops. Proper vans are being used and the meat is hung on the hooks provided. Mr. Cromwell continues to keep a close watch on the situation and will report any deviation from the present standards.

I have received two complaints this year of nuisance caused by mosquitoes. It is not generally known that mosquitoes which cause a nuisance by their bites are only a small proportion of the mosquito population of this country. Various species of mosquito are most particular in the animals or human beings they attack and also fastidious in their breeding habits, thus on receipt of a complaint that mosquitoes are causing a nuisance it is necessary for the offending mosquito to be caught. It is then sent to the laboratory for identification, this information usually enables us to find the breeding area which is confirmed by identification of mosquito larvæ, and then to devise the necessary methods of control. It is generally useless to attempt to control unless this whole procedure is undertaken. The two complaints of mosquito infestation were both received from the same house and three vicious mosquitoes were identified, namely, *theobaldia annulata*, *culex molestus* and *aedes cantans*.

In conclusion, may I express my gratitude for the co-operation and help that I have received from Mr. Cromwell and your Surveyor, Mr. Firth.

(Signed) H. F. GREEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Acreage	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,947
Number of inhabited houses, according to the rate books	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,835
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£67,158
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£269

Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,950
Birth Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	...	...	...	...	13·4
Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still-births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	18·2
Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11·1
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9·3

Comparable data for England and Wales, 1952.

Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	15·3
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	11·3
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	27·6

DEATHS

CAUSES OF DEATH (ALL AGES)

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Influenza	2	0	2
Diabetes	—	1	1
Cancer (all forms)	15	16	31
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	16	31
Diseases of the Heart and Arteries	30	41	71
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	0	1
Bronchitis	3	0	3
Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases...	3	3	6
Diseases of digestive system	3	1	4
Violence	3	1	4
All other causes	18	6	24
	—	—	—
	93	85	178
	—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Services.

Chemical analysis is carried out, as before, by arrangement with the County Laboratory at the County Buildings. Bacteriological examinations are now carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Clinics.

There are none provided by this Authority.

The County Council have provided by local arrangement with Voluntary Committees, for Infant Welfare Centres to be held at the following places:—

Upton-upon-Severn ...	1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Welland	2nd and 4th Fridays in the month at 2 p.m.
Hanley Swan	3rd Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Kempsey	1st Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Longdon	2nd Tuesday in the month at 2 p.m.

Clinics are also provided at Worcester and Malvern under arrangements made by the County Council, for Maternity and Eye Cases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits to premises for investigation	38
Premises disinfected after notifiable diseases	11
Premises disinfected after other diseases	3

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1952 the tuberculosis register contained the names of 46 males and 50 females, who normally reside in the district.

During the year 19 new cases were notified, 15 on account of pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 because of the presence of the disease in part of the body other than the lungs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1952.

DISEASE.	All Ages	Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	20-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65+	No age Specified
SCARLET FEVER ...	10			3		1	6							
PNEUMONIA ...	3				1		1					1		
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION ...	1								1					
MEASLES ...	111	1	11	5	6	13	65	2		3	1			4
WHOOPING COUGH	32	2	2	4	5	4	14	1						
DYSENTERY ...	1											1		
ERYSIPELAS ...	1												1	
POLIOMYELITIS ... (non-Paralytic)	1									1				
POLIOMYELITIS ... (Paralytic)	1								1					

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT DURING 1952.

	Ages 1-5 years	Ages 5-14 years	Total for Year
Children who received a full course of Primary Immunisation ...	127	7	134
Children who received a Re-inforcing Injection ...	—	131	131

Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1952.

Age at 31.12.52. i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1952	1 1951	2 1950	3 1949	4 1948	5-9 1942-47	10-14 1938-42	Total under 15
NUMBER IMMUNISED ...	10	83	132	132	138	727	704	1,926

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the Year ended 31st December, 1952

To :—

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present a report of the work of the Sanitary Inspector for the year ended December, 1952.

Summary of Visits and Inspections.

General Complaints	76
Drainage inspections—supervision of work	171
Drain Tests	53
Building Repair Licences	39
Improvement Grants—Housing Act, 1949	61
Visits to temporary dwellings	20
Visits to Hop Pickers' dwellings	5
Investigations of Overcrowding	2
Inspection of work in progress	158
Inspection of dairies, cowsheds, etc.	45
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	38
Inspections under the Petroleum Regulations	32
Inspection of Cafes, Kitchens and Public Houses	37
Inspection of Food premises	83
Inspections under P.H. (Meat) Regulations	50
Miscellaneous visits and revisits	348
Verminous premises fumigated	5

No. of samples submitted for analysis :—

Water	128
Milk	30

Factory and Workshops Acts.

No. of premises inspected	28				
No. of notices served	<table style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td>{ Cleanliness</td><td>Nil</td></tr> <tr> <td>{ Sanitary Accom.</td><td>Nil</td></tr> </table>	{ Cleanliness	Nil	{ Sanitary Accom.	Nil
{ Cleanliness	Nil				
{ Sanitary Accom.	Nil				

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Bakehouses.

No. of Bakehouses in area	...	...	...	...	7
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	18
No. of notices served	...	{ Cleanliness		...	Nil
		{ Sanitary Accom.		...	Nil

Ice Cream.

There are no Manufacturers of Ice Cream in the district.

No. of Retailers	...	...	...	...	22
No. of Inspections of premises	...	...	...	...	18

Cafes, Kitchens and Public Houses.

In conjunction with Inspector Brunt, representing the Licensing Justices, an inspection of the Public Houses in the area was commenced with a view to enforcing improvements where conditions fall considerably below the required standard. So far we have found the Brewers concerned very willing to co-operate.

No. of inspections made	...	...	...	...	37
No. of notices served	...	{ Cleanliness		...	Nil
		{ Sanitary Accom.		...	Nil

Food condemned as being unfit for Human Consumption.

Canned Meats—Imported	...	...	156 lbs.	2 ozs.
Canned Meats—Home Produce	...	...	33 lbs.	6 ozs.
3 tins Tomatoes	...	...	5 lbs.	8 ozs.
Kippers	...	...	28 lbs.	
Sardines	...	...		4 ozs.
1 tin Fruit Salad	...	...	2 lbs.	
Beetroot	...	...	18 tins	
Damsons	...	...	24 „	
Plums	...	...	16 „	
Rabbits	...	...	40	

WATER SAMPLING

Private Wells.

No. of Samples submitted for Analysis	...	...	128
<i>Result</i> —Satisfactory	...	...	57
Unsatisfactory	...	...	71
No. of wells cleaned and repaired as a result of informal action	...	...	11
No. of wells closed	...	...	4

Swimming Baths.

No. of privately owned swimming baths open to public	...	...	1
No. of Samples submitted for analysis	...	...	1
<i>Result</i> —Satisfactory	...	...	1
Unsatisfactory	...	...	—

HOUSING

No. of houses erected during the year	...	...	77
(a) by Local Authority	...	...	58
(b) by other bodies or persons	...	...	19

Table showing number of houses completed by the Local Authority as part of the Post War programme:

Year	Houses Completed
1946	10
1947	27
1948	53
1949	8
1950	46
1951	32
1952	58

HOUSING ACT, 1949

Improvement Grants.

Two applications were received during the year, one of which was approved and one rejected.

The following table indicates the position regarding applications for Improvement Grants received since the Act came into force.

Applications considered by Local Authority		Applications submitted to Regional Office of Ministry		
Approved	Rejected	Approved	Rejected	Under consideration at end of year
12	4	10	3	—

Table showing value of applications approved, and also the cost of work completed up to 31st December, 1952.

Applications Approved	Est. Cost of Work	Total Amount of Grant Payable	No. Completed	Total Cost of Works Completed	Amount of Grant Paid
10	£3719-1-11	£1849	7	£2480-8-11	£1231

Loans for Repairs Section 4, Housing Act, 1949.

Power is given to Local Authorities enabling advances to be made to owners for the purpose of *repairing* dwelling houses. A loan is made for a given period, a small interest being charged comparable to the conditions prevailing under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts.

This is in addition to the provision allowed for the payment of "Improvement Grants".

To qualify for an Improvement Grant it is necessary that the premises be in a good state of repair and have a life of not less than twenty years. Thus, an owner, faced with a list of dilapidations, is often unwilling to consider "Improvements" owing to the initial cost involved by the carrying out of necessary repairs.

In addition, the cost of general repairs is at such a high level that there is a fear that property will deteriorate until demolition will be the only outcome, whereas financial assistance in the form of a loan may enable owners to extend the life of existing property for many years.

I therefore suggest that consideration be given to the operation of this provision.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

Public Health Acts.

No. of premises visited	...	...	...	...	20
No. of defects or nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	34
No. of defects or nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	22
No. of notices served—Informal	...	...	...	...	19
No. of notices served—Statutory	...	...	...	...	1
Legal Proceedings Instituted	...	...	...	...	1

Housing Acts.

No. of premises inspected	...	...	...	...	12
No. of premises unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	8
No. of premises not in all respects fit	...	...	...	...	4
No. of premises rendered fit	...	...	...	...	3
No. of premises in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	2
No. of premises in respect of which Undertakings were accepted	...	...	...	...	1

SEWERAGE

Sewers and disposal works are provided and maintained in the following parishes:—

Upton-upon-Severn	...	Pumping Scheme
Kempsey	...	ditto
Callow End	...	ditto
Earls Croome	...	ditto
Hanley Castle	...	Gravitation
Hanley Swan	...	ditto
Powick	...	ditto

A number of smaller schemes dealing with sewage from small groups of houses are also in existence.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Area served	...	...	...	Whole area about 85% of properties.
Service	...	...	...	Fortnightly in most areas.
Disposal	...	...	...	To three tips.

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour and is under the control of the Council's Surveyor.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year we commenced using "WARFARIN" a new preparation now recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Warfarin is a synthetic chemical which destroys the ability of blood to clot or coagulate on exposure to air, and thus causing the rats to die from internal hæmorrhage. Warfarin when mixed with medium oatmeal is undetected by rats and mice so that the difficulty of "poison prejudice" is overcome and a continuous baiting method can be employed. We have found this method to be very successful when used under cover in barns, etc., but experience has shown that the slightest dampness causes the mixture to become discoloured and this appears to make the bait unpalatable. In such circumstances we still rely upon Zinc Phosphide or Red Squill and occasionally Arsenious Oxide.

We are fortunate in retaining the services of Miss Clements for this work.

A free treatment is given in respect of private dwellings, but a charge based upon time and material is made in the case of business premises.

No. of infestations treated	...	...	...	...	129
Private houses	...	...	...	...	53
Business premises	...	...	...	...	43
No. of other infestations	...	...	...	...	33
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	34

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) E. CROMWELL,

Sanitary Inspector.

